

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A tire building machine, comprising:
 - a carcass support on which a carcass is rotatably mounted; and
 - a tread strip feed device via which a tread strip is fed onto the carcass, the tread strip feed device including a linear path support assembly on which a tread strip can be supported in a substantially linear disposition, the linear path support assembly extending from an end of the tread strip feed device at which a cutting device may perform a cutting operation to another end more closely adjacent the carcass, the tread strip feed device being raisable to a feed position at which the tread strip extends tangentially relative to the carcass for feeding the tread strip thereonto in a tire building process during which the carcass rotates about a carcass rotation axis cyclically through a lower hemisphere travel extent below a horizontal plane passing through the carcass rotation axis and an upper hemisphere travel extent above the horizontal plane and the tread strip feed device supporting the tread strip at the feed position such that the tread strip extends tangentially relative to the upper hemisphere travel extent of the carcass during the feeding of the tread strip onto the carcass.
2. (currently amended) A tire building machine according to claim 1, and

further comprising a linkage disposed under the path support assembly of the tread strip feed device ~~and, in particular, in a region underneath the cutting device~~, the linkage being operable to effect a swing movement of the tread strip feed device.

3. (original) A tire building machine according to claim 1, wherein the path support assembly is mounted for swing movement and is moveable toward and away from the carcass.
4. (original) A tire building machine according to claim 1, and further comprising a sensor mounted on the end of the path support assembly disposed more closely adjacent the carcass, the sensor being operable to sense an approach of the path support assembly and the carcass toward one another.
5. (original) A tire building machine according to claim 1, wherein the path support assembly extends horizontally in a preparation position thereof.
6. (original) A tire building machine according to claim 1, wherein the path support assembly can be displaced to a spacing of at least 20 cm and, preferably, approximately 40 cm, from the carcass.
7. (currently amended) A tire building machine according to claim 1, wherein the path support assembly includes ~~conventional~~ rollers which are arranged in a sufficiently closely adjacent relationship to one another that a tread strip rollingly supported thereon cannot substantially hang into the spaces between adjacent rollers.

8. (currently amended) A tire building machine according to claim 1, wherein the path support assembly is raisable into a feed position by means of a lifting assembly comprising, in particular, a hydraulic working cylinder and, in particular, ~~the parameters of the lifting operation are determined as a function of the carcass diameter sensed by the sensor.~~
9. (new) A tire building machine according to claim 1, wherein the tread strip feed device is lowerable from its feed position into a non-feed position at which the another end of the tread strip feed device that is more closely adjacent the carcass is lower than its position in the feed position of the tread strip feed device.
10. (new) A tire building machine according to claim 9, wherein the one end of the tread strip feed device is lower than the top of the carcass in both the feed position and the non-feed position of the tread strip feed device.
11. (new) A tire building machine according to claim 2, wherein the linkage disposed under the path support assembly of the tread strip feed device is disposed under the path support assembly of the tread strip feed device at a region underneath the respective one end of the tread strip feed device more remote from the carcass than the another respective end of the tread strip feed device.
12. (new) A tire building machine according to claim 8, wherein the lifting assembly includes a hydraulic working cylinder.

13. (new) A tire building machine according to claim 8, wherein the parameters of the lifting operation of the lifting assembly are determined as a function of the carcass diameter sensed by a sensor mounted on the end of the path support assembly disposed more closely adjacent the carcass, the sensor being operable to sense an approach of the path support assembly and the carcass toward one another.
14. (new) A tire building machine, comprising:
 - a carcass support on which a carcass is rotatably mounted; and
 - a tread strip feed device via which a tread strip is fed onto the carcass, the tread strip feed device including a linear path support assembly and a swing movement assembly, the linear path support assembly for supporting thereon a tread strip in a substantially linear disposition and the linear path support assembly extending from a remote end thereof remote from the carcass to a proximate end thereof more closely adjacent the carcass, and the swing movement assembly for selectively raising and lowering the tread strip feed device between a feed position and a non-feed position, whereupon, when the swing movement assembly has raised the tread strip feed device into the feed position, the linear path support assembly supports the tread strip at a tangential orientation relative to the carcass for the subsequent feeding of the tread strip onto the carcass in a tire building process and, when the swing movement assembly has lowered the tread strip feed device into the non-feed position, the

linear path support assembly supports a next-to-be fed tread strip at a height smaller than the height at which the next-to-be fed tread strip is supported when the swing movement assembly subsequently raises the tread strip feed device from its non-feed position to its feed position, and the linear path support assembly being movable relative to the balance of the tread strip feed device in a translatory movement to thereby move the proximate end of the linear path support assembly toward the carcass, whereupon the positioning of a tread strip at the tangential orientation relative to the carcass for the subsequent feeding of the tread strip onto the carcass is effected by a combination of the translatory movement of the proximate end of the linear path support assembly toward the carcass and the movement of the tread strip feed device from its non-feed position into its feed position by the swing movement assembly.

15. (new) A tire building machine according to claim 14, wherein the swing movement assembly includes a support leg and a lifting element, the support leg being connected at a first connection to the tread strip feed device for supporting the tread strip feed device at a fixed height and the lifting element being connected to the tread strip feed device at a location intermediate the first connection and the carcass and being operable to raise and lower the proximate end of the linear path support assembly while the tread strip feed device moves about the first connection at which the support leg is connected to the tread strip feed device.

16. (new) A tire building machine according to claim 15, wherein the lifting element is a hydraulic cylinder.
17. (new) A tire building machine according to claim 14, wherein the linear path support assembly includes a guide rail.
18. (new) A tire building machine according to claim 15, wherein the first connection at which the support leg is connected to the tread strip feed device is at a spacing from the carcass and the extent of the tread strip feed device in the feed position thereof from the proximate end of the linear path support assembly to the first connection at which the support leg is connected to the tread strip feed device is at a spacing from the carcass greater than the spacing of the first connection and the carcass and the extent of the tread strip feed device in the non-feed position thereof from the proximate end of the linear path support assembly to the first connection is less than the spacing of the first connection and the carcass.